

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF JODY NAZARCHYK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing and honor the wonderful life of Waterford, Connecticut Selectwoman Jody Nazarchyk. Jody was a tireless public servant and community activist who showed unrivaled dedication to the well-being of her family and her town. The outpouring of praise and love for her from all corners of Waterford after news of her loss was a powerful statement of the impact she made on generations of town residents, young and old.

Born on January 15, 1952, to Josephine and John DeAngelis, Jody grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut. She attended St. Timothy's grade school and Mount St. Joseph's Academy who imbued in her a deep religious faith and spirituality. I was her classmate at St. Timothy's and she stood out, even at a young age, as a caring, kind person who put others ahead of herself. Beginning with her time supporting the Hartford Catholic Youth Organization alongside her father, the spirit of volunteerism was instilled within Jody throughout her family upbringing. From coaching both boys' baseball and girls' cheerleading, to running the school newspaper and serving as president of her class and captain of the cheer team, her record of volunteer service started early and continued unabated until the end of her life.

Early in her 20s, Jody moved to Waterford upon the completion of her education. There, she was closer to her extended family and, as fate would have it, her life soulmate, Rich Nazarchyk whom she married and raised four wonderful children. This move was not only a pivotal event for her personally, but also it turned out a decisive boon for the Town of Waterford.

Jody, who came to be known as both the "conscience of Waterford" and "Waterford's mom," always stood up for her community. This first became apparent in 1991 when she helped found the town's youth service bureau. In fact, advocating for the town's children was a central tenant to her work. In 2012, for example, when funding for freshman high school sports were threatened, Jody stood for her community, protected those programs from being cut, and ensured her town's youth had early access to athletic development. As a result, it was Jody who had sown seeds of town pride and indirectly supported Waterford gaining eight state championships since that year. It is no wonder that she is honored in the Waterford Sports Hall of Fame.

Outside of youth athletics, Jody also recognized the importance of a formational education and made sure to support students in the classroom. For 25 years, she served as a member of the Waterford Board of Education, where she was a tireless advocate for the

wellbeing of students, teachers, and parents. Her service culminated in her election to the position of Chair of the Board, where she was able to more effectively bridge the interests of students and parents alike. As a testament to her work, she was recognized as a Champion for Children by the town in 2014.

Jody's advocacy stretched beyond Waterford's borders and was felt across the entire region. She was especially dedicated to serving those who risked the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country. With this in mind, Jody positioned herself into an instrumental role in ensuring Southeast Connecticut veterans were recognized and cared for. A founding member of the Waterford coffee house. Jody would take care of local veterans—from Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners to ensuring they receive the appreciation they deserve.

Jody was instrumental in shaping Waterford into the haven for families that it is today. She taught CCD at St. Paul's, served on the Southwest Elementary and Clark Lane Parent Teacher Organizations, and was a Little League Coach. She also helped inspire the founding of Camp Dash, a full day summer camp for children who have working parents. She was most recently elected to the Board of Selectmen in 2019, where she fought for the interests of her neighbors through to her final days.

Mr. Speaker, after losing contact with Jody for decades after we went separate paths from St. Timothy's, it was a great joy for me to reconnect with her in the public affairs and events in Waterford. I enjoyed seeing her more recently during the veteran's coffee houses in town, where she, of course, helped serve breakfast, organize the room and schedule of activities. At its latest coffee house gathering a few days ago, the packed room of veterans had a solemn moment of silence in her honor.

Mr. Speaker, Jody Nazarchyk will be remembered as a positive, irrepressible force for the Town of Waterford. Although the void left by her sudden passing will be impossible to fill, we can find solace in the fact that her legacy of compassionate, selfless service will now be carried on by the thousands she touched throughout her life. She is specifically survived by her husband of 43 years, Rick Nazarchyk; children, Richard, Jodie, Justin, Jamie; and their children; as well as her brother and sister-in-law, Jordy and Patty DeAngelis. We should all look to Jody's example to ensure her torch of exemplary citizenship does not extinguish. To this end, I ask my colleagues to join me and the citizens of Waterford in honoring Jody's life and work.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JIM LANGAN

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Jim Langan, a longtime friend who passed away on February 15 of this year.

Jim was a friend to all who knew him, and will long be remembered for his love of life. He had a brilliant mind, a quick wit, and a powerful pen. He was a steward of that most sacred first amendment and understood the value of public service.

I will forever be grateful for our friendship, dialogue, and debate. He enriched the life of our community and lives of those who live here.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of Jim Langan. While we mourn his passing, we celebrate his life and the legacy he leaves behind. May his life and memory always be a blessing.

HONORING MR. JIM SPERING ON HIS 36 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend and incredible public servant, Mr. Jim Sperring upon his retirement from the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Throughout his career in public service, Mr. Sperring diligently advocated for the communities of Solano County and Suisun City, working to bolster local infrastructure and address land-use issues in the area through investments in critical projects.

Mr. Sperring's service to the Solano community spans over three decades, including 16 years as Solano County Supervisor and 20 years as Suisun City Mayor. In each of these positions, Mr. Sperring never lost sight of his responsibility to the citizens of Suisun City and Solano County, measuring success in his role by the lives improved through service and policy.

During his tenure as Solano County Supervisor, Mr. Sperring prioritized important investments in transportation infrastructure, most recently reflected in the opening of the full Highway 12 connector lanes into Solano County. Additionally, he was instrumental in the formation of the Solano Transportation Authority and the Amtrak Capitol Corridor intercity rail service, linking Sacramento and the Bay Area. His efforts not only modernized his community's infrastructure, making it safer and more efficient, but also improved the quality of life for Solano County residents.

In addition to his tireless work to improve Solano's transit systems, Mr. Sperring also

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

spearheaded environmental land-use projects to revitalize Suisun City. As chair of the City of Suisun's Redevelopment Agency, he led efforts to reinvigorate the Suisun City Waterfront and better its integration into the community. His leadership in land-use planning has undeniably enhanced the community and ushered Suisun City into a new era of prosperity.

While his presence on the Board of Supervisors will surely be missed, Mr. Sperring's 36 years of service have reflected the very best of public office and will continue to improve the lives of citizens for many years to come. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for Mr. Sperring's dedication and commitment to public service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING REGINA BIANUCCI RUS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Regina Bianucci Rus who is being honored as Citizen of the Year by the City of Novato for her exemplary public service.

A 25-year resident of Novato, Ms. Rus dedicated more than two decades of community service to the city through numerous and varied roles. As a business owner and accounting expert, Ms. Rus has shared her professional and leadership skills with the community, including as a board member and president of Novato Human Needs, a long-standing member of the Novato Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Novato Citizens Finance Advisory Committee, and a volunteer with the League of Women Voters of Marin County.

Her volunteer service varied from providing professional expertise and board leadership, to rolling up her sleeves to work on the annual July Fourth Buckaroo Breakfast, and volunteering at the Marin Food Bank. She also played a critical role in supporting the efforts to restore the Novato Theater.

Ms. Rus's commitment to improving quality education is also extensive. She was a founding board member, treasurer, and president of School Fuel, president of San Marin High School's Parent Teacher Association, a math tutor for elementary students, and a high school guest speaker on financial literacy.

She is also an active member of the Presbyterian Church of Novato. She was a member of the Finance and Administration Committee, and currently serves as an Elder of the Mission Committee. Through her work with the church, she has volunteered on trips to Juarez, Mexico to build homes for families-in-need; coordinated COVID-19 vaccination clinics in partnership with Marin County; and established the Snack Sack program, providing Marin County Mobile Shower recipients with lunches prepared by church members.

For her substantial volunteer service, Ms. Rus has been honored with numerous accolades, including the Novato Chamber of Commerce 2011 Women in Business Leadership Award and the California State PTA 2020 Golden Oak Service Award. Known for her grace, intelligence, and innovative manner, she is respected for always prioritizing the betterment of her community.

In her personal time, Ms. Rus is a musician and athlete. Since 2012, she has performed with the Las Gallinas Sanitary District Non-Marching Band. And, she has finished the Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon 25 times and since assumed the role of volunteer race director.

Ms. Rus's commitment to the City of Novato has been and continues to be significant and enduring. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Ms. Rus for her enduring public service, and in extending to her congratulations for being honored as the City of Novato's Citizen of the Year.

REMEMBERING RICHARD VALLE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representatives BARBARA LEE, MARK DESAULNIER, and RO KHANNA to recognize the life of Alameda County Board Supervisor Richard Valle on the occasion of his passing on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

Richard was born and raised in Union City and attended schools in New Haven Unified School District. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a medic and served in the Vietnam War in 1970. Upon his return, Richard attended Chabot College and California State University, East Bay to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Public Administration.

In 1980 Richard founded Tri-City Economic Development Corporation, more commonly known as TriCED Community Recycling, which provides employment opportunities and job training for underprivileged youth. As President and CEO of Tri-CED, Richard oversaw the organization's growth into the largest nonprofit recycling organization in California.

Richard began his career in public service in 1997 when he was first elected as Union City councilmember, where he served for 13 years until 2010. In 2012, Richard was appointed and subsequently re-elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to represent District 2, which includes Hayward, Union City, Newark, and portions of Fremont.

During his 11-year tenure, Richard was a tireless advocate for sustainability, safety-net services, and community programs for youth. Supervisor Valle held annual volunteer appreciation events, the Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll event to promote walkable neighborhoods and helped create Science in the Park to promote STEM-focused youth programs. He served on the Board of St. Rose Hospital and was vice-chair of the statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling.

Richard was a pillar of the Tri-City community for over two decades. Despite his two-year battle with prostate cancer, Richard remained dedicated to helping others. Alameda County has suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of this committed public servant. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Barbara, his son, Andrew, his daughter, Monica, and his three grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
DANIEL MORENO LOFTON

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Daniel Moreno Lofton and share this dedication by this family.

Daniel was born into this world on October 16, 1946, in Tucson, Arizona, to Peter Lofton and Jane Moreno. He was the eldest of his siblings. Daniel was presented to the Lord at the First Apostolic Church of Tucson by Pastor Reyes Coronado. At the young age of 19, Daniel made the life-changing decision to follow Jesus. He was baptized by Pastor Joe Fregoso at the First Apostolic Church of Tucson.

Soon after, he was drafted by the United States Army and served as Combat Medic in the Vietnam War from September 1967 through September 1969. As a Combat Medic, he was at the frontlines, ready to render life-saving aid to the wounded and, in other cases, recover the remains of those soldiers lost and ensure that no man was left behind. During his service, he received the following medals, badges, and commendations: National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Air Medal; Bronze Star Medal; Combat Medical Badge; and Army Commendation Medal. When he did speak about his personal experiences in the war, it was to acknowledge how the hand of God was upon his life and spared him from bullets as they grazed by the sides of his face and ears while he rendered aid or how he was kept safe as he traversed minefields to get to the wounded. He was always grateful to have made it back with no physical injuries and always made it a point of importance in his life to acknowledge the service of his fellow veterans and the sacrifice of those that did not make it back. Daniel continued serving as an employee of the Veterans Administration Hospital for 35 years until he retired.

In 1969, Daniel met Mireya Anna Luisa Martinez at the First Apostolic Church in Tucson while she was visiting her cousin Pastor Gilbert Samano, Sr., and his family. As the friendship and love grew, they decided to marry, and on April 3, 1971, in the presence of their family and friends, they exchanged their vows and were married by Pastor Pablo Rodriguez at the First Apostolic Church of Compton, CA. Daniel and Mireya were blessed with two children, Ann Marie Lofton and Daniel Lofton, Jr.

Those close to Daniel knew him for his thoughtful and caring personality. His kindness and unwavering willingness to serve others were demonstrated through his service as an ordained minister in the Apostolic Assembly. During his tenure, he served in many leadership roles in the men's auxiliary at the district, sector, and local levels. In addition, he was assistant pastor both in San Gabriel and Whittier, CA. His ministry was characterized by visiting and praying for the sick and elderly, utilizing the gift and calling the Lord had placed upon him. He had a heart for those in need, and often, he could be found providing a meal and a word of encouragement to brighten someone's day. Other times he would ask his

wife, Anna, to pack extra sandwiches or burritos for lunch to share with someone he knew was in need. When one of his co-workers died with no next of kin, he took it upon himself to contact the Veteran's Administration and gather all the necessary paperwork to ensure that he was given a proper burial. This was typical of Daniel. Always compassionate; always generous.

As often remembered by his family, when challenges presented themselves, a few of his favorite sayings to bring encouragement were "Help is on the way!" "Trust in Almighty God!" and "All things are possible if you only believe." How could one not feel better after hearing those words?

As a young man growing up on the south side of Tucson, Danny attended Sunnyside High School, where he excelled in varsity track and field and cross country, winning various awards and competitions. His specialty was the 100-yard dash, where he went on to win the city championship. He also played varsity football. Daniel loved sports and enjoyed going to games with his family or watching them on TV with his son. His passion for sports would not be complete if we did not mention how much he enjoyed watching and rooting for the U of A Wildcats.

Daniel loved his family. He enjoyed spending time with his mother, Jane, visiting his aunts and uncles, and sharing family time with his sisters, brothers, and cousins. He also enjoyed his visits with his mother-in-law, Maria Luisa, and the extended family gatherings. He especially enjoyed his time with his wife and children. Family dinners, traveling, historical sites, and church events were happily spent together.

On January 23, 2023, Daniel entered into his rest surrounded by his wife and son. Until we meet again, dear husband, father, brother, and friend, you will be fondly remembered and deeply missed.

Daniel was predeceased by his daughter, Ann Marie Lofton-Arce, as well as his brothers, David and Jesse. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mireya Anna Lofton; his son Daniel M. Lofton, Jr.; daughter-in-law, Angelica T. Lofton; and grandson, Zachary Arce. He is also survived by his sister, Lydia; step-sisters, Esther, Sylvia, Lourdes, Dolores, Alice, Rosemary and Emma; and stepbrothers, Michael and Arthur.

CELEBRATING THE 77TH ANNUAL VICTORIA LIVESTOCK SHOW

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the City of Victoria in celebrating the 77th annual Victoria Livestock Show. This year's show will take place from February 22 through 26, 2023.

The first Victoria Livestock Show was held in 1941. Shortly after, the show was suspended due to World War II. In 1947, the Victoria Jaycees decided to revive the livestock show, beginning with 4-H and FFA events in 1947 to pique people's interest. A show was put together a year later, and since then, it has been an annual Crossroads tradition.

The Victoria Livestock Show highlights the work that 4-H and FFA students have put into

raising and auctioning livestock. Today, it is larger than ever, with its 2021 auction raising more than \$820,000. In addition to the auction, a centerpiece of the Victoria Livestock show is the carnival, which includes rides, games, food, and even wiener dog races. Other fun activities include mutton bustin', goat roping, and the annual Queen Victoria pageant.

The Victoria Livestock Show embodies the heart of the Crossroads region, and I look forward to this year's show.

HONORING THE VACAVILLE PEOPLE'S FORUM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vacaville People's Forum in celebration of their 3rd annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace in the Park Parade.

Founded with the goal of amplifying the voices of underrepresented populations, the Vacaville People's Forum provides the invaluable service of informing local voters in often overlooked elections. Their work in holding elected officials accountable is a significant part of having an effective local government and an important job in Vacaville.

Their work includes highlighting outstanding members of our community on social media through campaigns like their "31 Inspiring Women in Vacaville," where they recognized inspiring women in industries ranging from healthcare and education to non-profits.

The Vacaville People's Forum further enriches their community by organizing events like the Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace in the Park Parade, the Pride in the Park, and the Be You 2022 Event for individuals with special needs, all of which were held within the last year.

These events are an essential part of our community. They bring us closer together and help fight the systemic issues that impact our most vulnerable populations. The hard work, commitment, and dedicated service of the Vacaville People's Forum on the 3rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace in the Park event showcases the best qualities of our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Vacaville People's Forum has been a source of quality debate for public officials and community building events in Vacaville. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that they are honored here today.

RECOGNIZING THE STRENGTH OF THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE AND RECOMMITTING TO SUPPORT THEIR FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the strength of the Ukrainian people after enduring one year of merciless attacks by Russian forces. February 24, 2023, marks one year since Vladimir Putin's unprovoked in-

vasion of Ukraine, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions of people.

When Putin ordered his tanks and forces into regions like Mariupol and Kharkiv, he thought Ukraine would fall in a matter of days. Instead of an easy victory, Putin's war of aggression has been a dismal failure.

In the past year, I visited Ukraine right before the Russian invasion and again this past summer. There, I saw clear evidence of Putin's war crimes—atrocities against civilians and children, and attacks on the Ukrainian people's very existence as a nation. I walked around St. Andrew's Church in Bucha where 116 people were buried in a mass grave because the city morgue was completely occupied. But I also saw Ukrainians display remarkable resilience and bravery, even when Russian forces attacked basic services and critical civilian infrastructure.

The people of Ukraine refuse to be forced into an authoritarian state where any opposition is met with jail, torture, or murder. They are prepared to pay the ultimate price for their freedom. Ukrainian armed forces and leadership, like President Zelensky, defend their homeland with skill, determination, and bravery.

I have met with many NATO members over the past year and am proud to report that NATO is stronger than ever. We are more united than ever in providing military, economic, and humanitarian assistance to support Ukraine's right to sovereignty.

The United States and our Western allies understand that Putin's invasion of Ukraine is not just a Ukraine problem, it's a battle between democracy and authoritarianism worldwide. We are delivering a strong and unequivocal answer: we will stand guard over freedom today, tomorrow, and forever.

Since the invasion, the United States has provided unprecedented support and coordination, which has helped the Ukrainian military make exponential gains. During my last trip, I told President Zelensky about his deep support from the Ukrainian-American community here in the United States. I have met with Parliamentarians from Ukraine throughout the war, twice in the past two months alone, as well as the Mayor of Kyiv, and it is always important to me to share the deep support they have from Americans from across the country.

Our area, which has one of the largest Ukrainian-American populations in the United States, has demonstrated remarkable generosity and determination to support the children, families, and servicemembers of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Cultural Center of NJ has shipped 18 containers to Ukraine with aid valued at over \$4 million. Local families have opened their homes to Ukrainians seeking refuge from the conflict. Our local governments and law enforcement have sent supplies, including equipment like bullet-proof vests.

Picatinny Arsenal in my congressional district has been integral to Ukraine's military success. They have developed the primary cannon being used by the Ukrainian army, and continue to be responsible for every piece of ammunition being sent by the United States to Ukraine. We are so proud of their work and dedication.

The U.S. and our fellow democracies must continue to support Ukraine in 2023 to prevent a new era of authoritarianism. I remain committed to protecting the fundamental values of

peace, prosperity, and stability across the globe.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CLARENCE THORNTON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a dedicated patriot, Clarence Thornton, of Hampton, Connecticut. Mr. Thornton, a devoted veteran, husband, and father, passed away at the age of 101 on February 6, 2023.

Born in 1921, in Pomfret, Connecticut, to George Howard and Frances Thornton, Clarence was a beloved native of Eastern Connecticut. Through the nurturing of his family, Clarence's capacity for devotion to his community and country was endless. One of the most prominent and early examples of Clarence's devotion was by way of his service in the Army during World War II. Aged 21, Clarence heeded our Nation's call to action and began his service as a Heavy Truck Driver in 1942. Throughout his military career, Private First Class Thornton joined Allied forces in the campaign to liberate Europe and preserve world order, serving in the offensives of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. Clarence was presented with several ribbons and medals for his honorable service.

Upon his honorable discharge in December 1945, Clarence returned to his native state of Connecticut, settling in Hampton, where he found new ways to give back to his community. Due to his striking resemblance to Abraham Lincoln, Clarence frequently portrayed the President during the town's Memorial Day Parades. He was also a hard worker who contributed to the local economy by way of several trades, including his precise touch for furniture making and painting homes in the surrounding region.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent patriots who are as humble, dutiful, and service-oriented as Clarence Thornton. Clarence will be forever remembered for his devotion to his large family and is specifically survived by his children: Keith and Michelle Thornton, Patricia Goodwin, Robert Thornton, Sandra and "Stretch" Thornton, Sharron and James Dickson, Sharlene Thornton; sister, Elsie May Johnson, and an even greater extended family. He was a beloved figure in town and his loss will continue to be felt throughout the region. To that end, I ask that my colleagues join me in observing the loss of Clarence Thornton.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DIS-
CHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
(NPDES)

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I re-introduce an amendment to the Clean Water Act extending permit terms for publicly owned

water infrastructure projects under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). I thank my colleague Congressman KEN CALVERT (R-CA) for his support as the original cosponsor again this Congress.

This bipartisan bill would simply extend the NPDES permit term for projects owned and operated by local public agencies like water districts from the current 5 years up to 10 years. NPDES permit terms for private projects or industrial discharges would remain at the current 5-year term.

The United States has fallen behind many other developed nations in wastewater infrastructure, receiving a D-plus grade in the American Society of Civil Engineers' most recent report card. One reason for this lapse in infrastructure modernization is arbitrary permitting timetables imposed by federal law. Permit terms should match the construction timelines and on-the-ground reality for the projects to which those permits apply. This is currently not the case. With over 95 percent of wastewater infrastructure spending at the local level, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, lengthening permit terms for local governments would be one of the most expeditious ways to encouraging further investment in 21st-century wastewater treatment and water recycling facilities.

Current NPDES permitting under the Clean Water Act has a maximum term of 5 years, an arbitrary timeline that is impracticable given prolonged construction schedules for local public agencies. As a result, California's State Water Resources Control Board and Clean Water Act regulators in other states are overwhelmed with a backlog of NPDES permitting requests for existing projects. New public projects are significantly delayed by this unnecessary bureaucracy, which also prevents regulators like California's State Water Resources Control Board from focusing on watershed-scale planning and water quality standards.

My bill would alleviate this burden by extending the maximum permit to 10 years, helping local water agencies nationwide better implement the Clean Water Act and cutting the current permitting backlog in half. Extending NPDES permit terms is a practical solution that allows local agencies to meet regulatory standards while building public water projects that measurably improve water quality, which after all is the purpose of the Clean Water Act.

In October 2019, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed my bill to allow States to issue NPDES permits with terms up to 10 years as part of then-Chairman DeFazio's bipartisan "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019" (H.R. 1497). Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to cosponsor this bipartisan bill.

RECOGNIZING ALLEGHENY TOWN-
SHIP POLICE CHIEF LEO J.
BERG, III

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Allegheny Township Police Chief Leo J. Berg, III, and thank him for his 30 years of service to the Blair County community.

The hallmark of Chief Berg's time in law enforcement is the relationships he built within the community he served. From responding to medical emergencies to treating every person he met with respect and dignity, Chief Berg strived to treat everyone he interacted with fairly and with respect.

His tireless efforts to enforce the law and keep Blair County safe have been invaluable. Through his commitment to training and professionalism, the Chief has set an example for young officers that will continue to serve Allegheny Township well.

Chief Berg, and his wife of 39 years, Kim Berg, have been pillars of Allegheny Township, and in his retirement, Chief Berg will leave a lasting legacy.

On behalf of all of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Chief Berg for his service and wish him every continued success.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this February we celebrate the 23rd Black History Month. Black History Month is a time to honor the past contributions of Black people in American society and also to pay homage to those making progress currently and in the future. It is an annual celebration of achievements, reflection on challenges faced, and recognition of the central role of Black people in U.S. history.

Each Black History Month adopts a central theme. Last year's theme was "Black Health and Wellness;" this year, we focus on "Black Resistance." "Black Resistance" is a powerful message that refers to how, throughout history, African Americans have withstood, combatted, and opposed both intermittent or ongoing disadvantages and oppression. We've undergone being enslaved and having human and civil rights stripped away. For centuries, African Americans have faced enormous obstacles in numerous aspects of life, including education, economic security, healthcare, employment, housing, and criminal justice. African Americans routinely experience opportunity denial due to the color of our skin, and we continue to struggle for justice and equality for ourselves and communities in the face of systematic racism. In Chicago, as across the nation, Black families are more likely to live in poverty than white families, making it challenging to access decent education, health care, and other essential resources for a fulfilling life. Being Black in the United States is a complicated and multidimensional experience affected by historical, social, and cultural influences.

Black Resistance has helped overcome these barriers on the path to equality. African Americans have made enormous contributions to American culture, politics, and society. From the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter, Black people have battled for justice and equality. Their words and actions have molded the history and identity of our Nation. Black families have demonstrated Black Resistance—a remarkable endurance, fortitude, and perseverance in the face of adversity. Through all the pressures of life, Black

parents teach their children the meaning behind the color of their skin, to stay on the right side of the system, and to face a world that fears our physique. Despite centuries of challenges, Black parents have raised children who grew into the workers, professionals, parents, and communities who made this wonderful Nation what it is.

Black Resistance has helped us overcome barriers on the path to equality; yet recently, it seems that more obstacles arise with each hurdle we surmount. Instead of moving forward, it sometimes feels like we are stuck in an ongoing cycle of one-step-forward-two-steps-back. Black students in Chicago and across the nation are disproportionately likely to attend underfunded schools that lack resources and qualified teachers. This inequity often results in decreased academic achievement and diminished opportunities for success. Black parents must advise their children how to navigate the centuries-old barriers facing African Americans and hope the world doesn't take their babies from them. Too many Black mothers in the United States suffer from the agony of knowing that their child's last words were a call for them while being killed by the police. Further, some Republican leaders are aggressively pushing to eliminate the teaching of African-American history in classrooms, promising to exacerbate the ongoing education crisis and forcing the country to move backward instead of forward. Without education on the various accomplishments and failings of the past, future generations will be unprepared for the challenges ahead due to the lost lessons of history.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., recognized that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Regardless of the obstacles encountered, the Black community has a long, cultural tradition of activism and advocacy, and this Black Resistance advances the fight for justice and equality that Dr. King spoke of. In honor of Black History Month, I organized a town hall gathering to recognize the historical heroes and heroines, those from the past who have shaped our world and those from the present who are paving the path for future heroes and heroines. The event occurred on Sunday, February 19, 2023, at the Home of Life Missionary Baptist Church. During this event, I heard from residents about what policies on which they believe Congress should focus to continue bending the arc of the moral universe toward justice.

As we celebrate the 23rd Black History Month, I am reminded of Sam Cooke's hope: "It's been a long . . . time coming, but I know a change gonna come. Oh yes, it will." I have seen Black Resistance bring about such wonderful change in my lifetime. I am proud to celebrate this success, and I promise to continue fighting for equality and opportunity at every turn. Change is gonna come.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN VERA DEACON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district. Vera Deacon, who after graduating

from the Abington Senior High School studied medical sciences at Penn State University and then obtained her license as a registered nurse at the Abington Hospital School of Nursing in 1977.

Vera served the community as an Emergency Department nurse at Abington Hospital and then Lehigh Valley Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital where she transitioned into the role of a PICC nurse and vascular access educator. As a driven patient advocate throughout her career, Vera participated in the reviews of PICC line device failures, efficacy, and the effects of short and long-term placements. As a CRNI and expert in the field, she has published several medical journal articles related to the elimination of infections in complex patient populations, and the Safe Medical Devices Act and its impact on clinical practice.

Missing the intensely challenging patient care opportunities of the hospital Emergency Department, Vera joined the Springtown Volunteer Fire Company to provide rescue services to her home community and was certified in Firefighter 1 and as a Basic Vehicle Rescue technician. After completing an EMT course, she joined Upper Bucks Regional EMS where she has consistently volunteered on-duty at its Springfield Township station every week and is an invaluable crew member with her extensive background in emergency medicine.

In addition to responding to 911 calls for medical emergencies, she now also serves Upper Bucks Regional EMS as the volunteer coordinator and the vice president and secretary of the Board of Directors. As if this service to the community wasn't enough, she also volunteered to review funding applications for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in Montgomery County and brought that knowledge and experience back to benefit her local Fire and EMS community. In 2022, Vera Deacon volunteered more than 252.5 hours at Upper Bucks Regional EMS and is therefore awarded the President's Silver Volunteer Service Award on behalf of our Nation.

We are incredibly grateful for the positive impact Vera has had through her long career of public service, and we wish Vera countless blessings into the future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF RICHARD H. DEDRICK

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in remembrance of Richard H. Dedrick, a longtime friend and Tivoli neighbor who passed away on February 15 of this year.

Rich served his country honorably in the United States Air Force and was the Commander of Post 524 of the American Legion in Tivoli. His humor and wit lessened a debate and lightened the mood. Our service together in the village of Tivoli helped to make better the community and lives of those who called our corner of the world home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of Richard H. Dedrick. While we mourn his passing, we celebrate his life and the legacy he leaves behind. May his life and memory always be a blessing.

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of Westmoreland County, the history of its people and their service to Western Pennsylvania.

Westmoreland County was founded on February 26, 1773 through an Act of Assembly signed by Governor John Penn. While the British already maintained a presence in the region, Westmoreland was the first county to be founded west of the Allegheny Mountains and represented a new frontier for Pennsylvania. Westmoreland's people endured hardships when the county was sought by Virginia during Dunmore's War. The county seal at Hannastown was attacked and burned by American Indians in 1782. Three years later, the county seat was moved to Greensburg where it stands today.

This new frontier also played a role in testing the strength of our country's leadership during the Whiskey Rebellions, when farmers from Western Pennsylvania fought back against the first federal tax on spirits. What could have been a far bloodier conflict was handled fairly but firmly by President George Washington and Pennsylvania's leaders, proving to the world that America could handle its own disputes without resorting to tyranny.

Although neighboring Allegheny County was first formed from parts of Westmoreland, their economic lives have remained inseparable. Westmoreland's plentiful coal resources fueled Pittsburgh's revolutionary steel industry, leading to the formation of Carnegie Steel by Westmoreland County native Henry Clay Frick. Wages from those same steel plants helped to draw workers and feed families across the Allegheny River. Farmlands of Westmoreland helped provide eggs, oats, and alfalfa to the rest of the Nation for years, cementing the county as an essential arm of American industry.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Westmoreland County is uniquely American and important to Pennsylvania. You cannot tell the story of our country without speaking of the people who worked hard to turn a frontier county into an engine of American industry. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate the citizens of Westmoreland County on this remarkable milestone and look forward to building on this storied history over the next 250 years.

RECOGNIZING ARTHUR O. EVE, JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Arthur O. "Champ" Eve, Jr. on being recognized with the Erie County Democratic Committee's 2023 Joseph F. Crangle Legacy Award. This award rightfully acknowledges Champ's name as one of the great leaders of our party and commemorates his service to our community and the Democratic Party.

Champ rightfully earned this distinction through a lifetime of public service and commitment to others. Born to trailblazing leaders, Constance Boyles Eve and Arthur O. Eve, Sr., Champ was quickly taught the importance of family, hard work, and staying true to one's values. Champ is a proud graduate of Canisius High School and the University at Buffalo, though Buffalo State University holds a special place in his heart as he serves as Assistant Men's Basketball Coach and a mentor for the young student-athletes. Champ has been on the frontline of local, state, and national campaigns since becoming involved in politics at a young age, and he has never faltered in his commitment to the party. He is the founder and President of Unity Coalition, an organization that through his leadership has and advised and recruited candidates for local office, collected thousands of signatures, and planted hundreds of lawn signs. Throughout his years of involvement, Champ and Unity Coalition have been tireless campaigners for candidates including, President Barack Obama, Senator Hillary Clinton, Honorable Jeannette Ogden, Governor Kathy Hochul, and County Executive Mark Poloncarz.

Currently, Champ serves as the Deputy Board of Elections Commissioner for Erie County and Vice Chair of the Erie County Democratic Committee. He shares his passion for politics and community service with his wife, Kim, and his seven children, Arthur III, Shiana, Laneesha, Eric, Louis, Melzetta, and David, as well as his treasured grandchildren.

Mr. Eve's dedication to his country, community, family, and party is indicative of all that is great about Western New York. I am thankful for the opportunity to call Champ a friend and to honor him and the countless positive contributions he has made to our community. Today, those in attendance for the Chairman's Council Reception in Buffalo express their gratitude toward Champ, but our appreciation pales in comparison to the unwavering dedication that Champ has demonstrated for several decades. Champ undoubtedly deserves the Joseph F. Crangle Legacy Award, and I thank him for his commitment to bettering the lives of those in our community.

HONORING JENNIFER CARPENTER

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Jennifer Carpenter, the Chief Operating Officer for D'Amore Healthcare.

As the COO for D'Amore Healthcare, Jennifer is a Certified Treatment Executive and holds credentials in the behavioral health field, including certifications as a Qualified Mental Health Specialist and Certified Admissions and Marketing Specialist with CCAPP. Before finding her passion in Admissions with D'Amore Healthcare, Jennifer worked for a nonprofit organization as the Financial Administrator.

Her own personal journey led to her dedication in helping others struggling with mental health and substance abuse and allows her to be the point of contact with individuals and their families looking to start their recovery.

Throughout her incredible career, Jennifer made sure that her clients are aware of the in-

dividual care they will receive while at D'Amore Healthcare, which includes screening and assessment before admissions and following through with the patient's intake from start to finish, in addition to discharge planning.

It is my privilege to honor this humble and hard-working woman. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in acknowledging the career and accomplishments of Jennifer Carpenter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JIMMIE JACKSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and lasting contributions of Vallejo NAACP President Jimmie Jackson. Passing away at the age of 75, Mr. Jackson leaves behind an indelible legacy of advocacy and community service to Solano County.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Mr. Jackson demonstrated his persevering and industrious spirit from a young age, earning recognition for his football abilities and eventually enrolling at Fisk University on an athletic scholarship.

In 1966, Mr. Jackson was drafted into the U.S. Air Force, where he bravely served our nation in Vietnam. He was later stationed at Travis Air Force Base, beginning his long-term residency in Solano County. After being honorably discharged in 1969, Mr. Jackson continued his selfless service as a member of the Army Reserves, while also earning his bachelor's degree in Government and his master's degree in Public Administration.

Mr. Jackson's commitment to his country was not only expressed through his military service, but also through his public service to Solano County. From 1977 to 1980, and again from 2011 to 2023, Mr. Jackson served as the Vallejo NAACP President. Additionally, he served on the NAACP National Credentials Committee, the NAACP Vallejo Executive Committee, and the CA/HI NAACP Executive Committee. He was a valiant advocate for the NAACP and his courageous leadership was instrumental in advancing the fight for justice.

Throughout his tenure with the NAACP, Mr. Jackson demonstrated his sincere love for his community through his compassionate leadership and altruistic advocacy. His tireless efforts as a freedom fighter, especially his work within the NAACP Youth and College Division, made him a beacon of light within his community and undeniably advanced the fight for civil rights, equality, and justice.

In addition to his crucial contributions to the NAACP, Mr. Jackson also exemplified the spirit of altruism and leadership in all areas of his life. He served on the Solano Community College Human Relations Committee, Vallejo Human Relations Commission, Solano Red Cross Board of Directors, and Vallejo Planning Commission. Mr. Jackson's indispensable leadership in these organizations played a vital role in fostering equity and unity in his community.

Mr. Jackson will be remembered not only for his decades of service to the city of Vallejo, but also for his genuine spirit of kindness and compassion. He impacted the lives of so many

in his community and was known both for his service with the NAACP and the unfailing love he had for his family. His steadfast leadership, constant smile, and patient mentorship have left a lasting legacy on Solano County and the people of Vallejo.

Mr. Jackson is survived by four children, four siblings, and a community that will dearly miss his enduring spirit. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Jackson's loved ones. I know that they, along with the people of Solano County, join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LUCY KORTUM

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Lucy Kortum, an extraordinary environmental champion and community leader, who passed away on November 30, 2022 at the age of 94.

Lucy was born in Coronado, California in 1928, where her father was stationed as a Naval aviator during World War II. She graduated from Pomona College and moved to San Francisco where she met her husband, Bill Kortum, who would later be known as the father of the Sonoma County environmental movement. They married in 1953 and began their decades-long partnership in environmental and political advocacy.

Beginning in the 1960s, Lucy and Bill led numerous public campaigns to preserve Sonoma and the northern California Coast from overdevelopment. The couple successfully advocated for saving Bodega Head from a plan to build a nuclear power plant, protecting public access along the northern Sonoma Coast. They also succeeded in passing Proposition 20, which created the California Coastal Commission and the California Coastal Act in 1972.

Lucy was also a passionate historian and a champion of local and statewide architectural preservation. She earned her teaching credential at Sonoma State University, and later returned in 1991 to pursue her master's degree in history. Her master's thesis resulted in the addition of ten California Carnegie libraries to the National Register of Historic Places, and her work was later credited with adding the 1892 Petaluma Silk Mill to the National Register, saving it from future demolition.

Lucy was highly motivated by her family and strong sense of community. The Kortum's home became a community hub in Sonoma County, often hosting meetings about pressing local issues. I am among many of the beneficiaries of Lucy and Bill Kortum's wisdom and mentorship. She leaves behind her sons, Frank and Sam Kortum, her daughter, Julie Groves, and her five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Lucy Kortum was a community figure who will be missed and whose many contributions to the region are a legacy worthy of congressional recognition. Please join me in extending condolences to Lucy's family and many friends, and in expressing my deep appreciation for the positive impact she has left on the community and the environment.

CELEBRATION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S WESTPORT BRANCH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Kansas City Public Library's Westport Branch for its one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of service. For more than a century, the Westport Library has nurtured Missouri's Fifth Congressional District with public services and resources that help keep our community afloat. As Kansas City's first library branch to have opened, the Westport Library paved the way for the current library system in Kansas City to exist.

The Westport Library first opened its doors to the community on February 22, 1898, under the name Allen Library in honor of Arthur M. Allen, who made its inception possible. After having discovered a surplus of \$7,500 in taxes collected for the construction of a horse railroad line between Westport and Kansas City, Allen decided to go against the city in court to secure the funds and establish a community library.

Allen won the court case and began the process to open the library. With the money won, the land to build the library was pur-

chased for \$1,800 and the library built for \$5,012. To ensure that there would be books for the newly built library, Allen, who was a member of the Westport School Board, helped allocate a total budget of \$2000 so that the library could be stocked for its visitors. The library opened to the Westport community with Margurite Smith as its first librarian providing local residents with knowledge, resources, and a place for exchanging ideas. Then, when Kansas City annexed Westport, the Allen Library became the first branch of the Kansas City Public Library system, continuing to bear Allen's name on its outside walls. Without the establishment of the Westport Library, generations upon generations would not have had the access to books and the opportunity to nurture their intellectual curiosity.

Throughout its one hundredth and twenty-fifth years of existence, the Westport Library has stood as a landmark in Kansas City's Midtown community. This historic building serves as a meeting place for students and residents looking for resources such as free Wi-Fi, help obtaining a passport, historic archives, and books to read. Now more than ever, the public service that the Westport library has provided for the residents of Kansas City must be applauded.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the current and former staff members of this establishment who have worked tirelessly to connect people with ideas, services, and resources that make our community a better place. The Westport Library set the

stage for the creation of the Kansas City Public Library system that exists today and that continues to bridge the gap between useful information and our neighbors. The Westport Library's contribution to Kansas City's population cannot be overstated, and I have no doubt that they will continue this important work over the next century and beyond.

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHRISTOPHER SHAWN KING****HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Christopher Shawn King who passed away on February 2 of this year. Christopher was a devoted father, Air Force veteran, volunteer firefighter and friend to all who he met.

He was a man whose love and care was evident to all who knew him. While he was taken from us far too soon, his family and friends will long cherish their time with him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of Christopher Shawn King. While we mourn his passing, we celebrate his life and the legacy he leaves behind. May his life and memory always be a blessing.